

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 21 are amended; claims 3-4, 16-17, and 22-23 are canceled; and new claims 25-26 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 5-15, 18-21, and 24-26 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the 12/11/2006 advisory action, the Examiner stated that claims 4, 17, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 4 and intervening claim 3. Applicant submits therefore that amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 2 and 5-15 depend variously from claim 1, Applicant further submits that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 14

Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 17 and intervening claim 16. Applicant submits therefore that amended claim 14 is allowable. Since claims 15 and 18-20 depend variously from claim 14, Applicant further submits that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 21

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 22. Applicant submits therefore that amended claim 21 is allowable. Since claim 24 depends from claim 21, Applicant further submits that claim 24 is also allowable.

Claim 25

New claim 25 is supported by previously pending claims 21 and 23. New claim 25 incorporates the subject matter of allowable claim 23 and base claim 21, from which claim 23 depended. Applicant submits therefore that claim 25 is allowable.

Claim 26

New claim 26 is supported by previously pending claim 24. New claim 26 depends from new claim 25, which Applicant submitted is allowable above, and therefore, Applicant submits, new claim 26 is also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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